AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [0009] and replace it with the following paragraph:

a2

The present invention provides for anti-viral agents that target viral RNase H RNA-DNA hybrid substrates of RT. The term 'anti-viral agent' refers to one or more molecule(s) or ligand(s) that inhibit the RNase H activity of RT by targeting RNase H RNA-DNA hybrid substrates of RT and/or binding to RNA-DNA hybrid substrates. The anti-viral agents of the present invention are not targeting the RT enzyme itself. As a result, the anti-viral agents and methods disclosed herein will have a higher immunity to the mutational frequency of RT and will be less susceptible to the development of viral resistant strains. The anti-viral agents of this invention will also have an inherent specificity for viral nucleic acid rather than host nucleic acid since the anti-viral agents are targeted to viral nucleic acid structures, which are not found in host cells.

Please delete paragraph [0040] and replace it with the following paragraph:

a3

All UV absorbance experiments were conducted on an AVIV Model 14DS Spectrophotometer (Aviv Associates; Lakewood, NJ) equipped with a thermoelectrically controlled cell holder. A quartz cell with a 1 cm pathlength was used for all the absorbance studies. Absorbance versus temperature profiles were measured at 274 nm with a 6 sec averaging time. The temperature was raised in 0.5°C increments, and the samples were allowed to equilibrate for 1 min at each temperature setting. In these thermal denaturation studies, 18C-18R and 18C-18D solutions were 2μM in duplex and contained aminoglycoside at concentrations ranging from 0 to 12 μM. The duplex solutions were preheated for 5 min at 85°C and then cooled to room temperature prior to addition of the drug. The buffer solutions for the UV melting experiments contained 10 mM PIPES (pH 6.0) and 5 mM $MgCl_2$ ~~M_gCl_2~~. For each optically detected transition, the melting temperature (T_m) was determined. Marky, L.A. & Breslauer, K.J. Calculating thermodynamic data for transitions of any molecularity from equilibrium melting curves, *Biopolymers* 26, 1601-1620 (1987).